

Amendments To Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A system for facilitating a change in distance between objects, said system including:

a head component having cutting threads, said cutting threads operable for insertion into and termination within an object;

a flexible wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration; and,

a cap mating with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with certain of said inverse sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tip, cutting threads and fastening threads.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tool attachment which mates with a tool head.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured to translate along said wire in only one direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said object.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into a first object, and wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from a second object.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a cannulated rod which receives said wire, said tensioner further includes gears having a third interface component which mates with said first interface of said wire to apply tension to said wire.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a gauge to determine the amount of tension.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for the fixation of a bone fracture having a first bone portion and a second bone portion, said system including:

a head component having cutting threads, said head component operable to be inserted into and terminate within a first bone portion;

a flexible wire comprised of a thin metal having a first end, and a second end, wherein said flexible wire is at least one of bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, and wherein said first end of said flexible wire is affixed to said head component; and,

a cap comprising a planar disk having a central hole and a plurality of surrounding holes, each surrounding hole connected to the central hole via a cut, wherein said cap mates, without rotation of said cap, with said second end of said flexible wire by translating along said flexible wire while an inside surface of said cap restricts reverse translational movement to apply pressure between a first bone portion and a second bone portion.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said flexible wire is operable to extend through a second bone portion and said cap is operable to mate with said flexible wire against the surface of a second bone portion to exert tension on said flexible wire, thereby compressing the surface of a first bone portion and the surface of a second bone portion against each other.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising a surgical plate, said surgical plate operable to mate with the surface of a bone portion.

Claims 14-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap further includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into a bone, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from a bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening, and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said center hole to said additional opening for facilitating expansion of said cap.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said additional opening to said outside surface of said cap for facilitating expansion of said cap.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a spring to apply pressure to said cap.